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30 November 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR : C/SR/7

SUBJECT : CONTRCT REPORT: AECAMBISTA 16

1. On the evening of 18 November 1955 undersigned and interviewed AECAMBISTA 16, a contract employee of SR/3 currently being used in PP activity. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the extent of his knowledge of Byelorussian clandestine operations and to assess his suitability for spotting activities.

2. AECAMBISTA 16 was asked about the details of JURY SIENKOWSKI's exfiltration from Byelorussia and of his work with RODZKO. He could provide no details but guessed that SIENKOWSKI exfiltrated overland through Poland and East Germany. AECAMBISTA 16 stated that SIENKOWSKI was debriefed by CIC, but he did not say what the source of this information was and implied that it was rumor. RI files reveal no information concerning this episode. It is possible that SIENKOWSKI used another name that was never related to his true name.

3. AECAMBISTA 16 claimed to have no first hand knowledge of VITUSHKO but did relate a story of a meeting with a German flier who claimed to have seen and talked to VITUSHKO in the forests of Western Byelorussia. This Luftwaffe officer came to subject's attention by means of an article written by him for a German newspaper about his experiences among the partisans of Byelorussia. The pilots story, briefly, concerned his escape in an airplane from a PW camp somewhere in Russia, the forced landing of the plane in the forests of Byelorussia, the meeting with VITUSHKO, and an overland exfiltration to Germany. AECAMBISTA 16 doubted the story but stated that he passed the pilot's story along to AECAMBISTA 4. There is nothing concerning this episode in AECAMBISTA 4's file nor is there anything in the Byelorussian Resistance Movement file which can be traced to or connected with the pilot.

4. AECAMBISTA 16 was asked what steps he thought ought to be taken against the BSSR. He replied that preparations for hot war should be begun, with emphasis on a Byelorussian Cadre School, and that efforts should be made to get information out of Byelorussia. Furthermore, he stated that it would be absolutely foolhardy to agitate the population ward revolution.

The losses that would be incurred in clandestine intelligence action against the BSSR would be very high, he said, but well worth it.

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In this connection AECAMBISTA 16 mentioned that Kuschel made some efforts, under American auspices in 1949, to establish links with the Byelorussian underground, using repatriation channels for infiltration. While professing not to know what the results of this operation were, he "guessed" they were meager or nothing. AECAMBISTA 16 did not allude, even remotely, to AEQUOR TEAM II, but undersigned thinks that he knows more than he was willing to talk about. This is merely a hunch, based on his accurate statement of Kuschel's operations, and his connection with Ragula and AECAMBISTA 4.

5. This case officer then proposed that he could contribute more actively to the anti-Bolshevik struggle by using his knowledge of the Byelorussian emigration to locate candidates for intelligence activity against the BSSR. AECAMBISTA 16 was attracted by the proposal but felt that the problems he would face in this capacity were fairly complex. Certain deficiencies peculiar to the Byelorussian emigration -- lack of a national state tradition, lack of individuals experienced in intelligence -- and characteristics common to emigre groups in general -- rapid assimilation in America -- were the major difficulties. Subject said he would like to think through the problem.

This case officer urged him to take all the time he needed and said he would get in touch with him after Christmas. The sensitivity and importance of the proposal was again emphasized and AECAMBISTA 16 said the matter would be discussed only with undersigned.

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